

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-22 (cancelled).

23. (new) A method for preparing pristinamycin IIA or IIB comprising:

a) specifically introducing a disabling mutation into at least one gene target in a microorganism that produces pristinamycin IA and pristinamycin IB, wherein said gene target is selected from the *snbA* gene (SEQ ID NO:20) and genes that hybridize to the *snbA* gene (SEQ ID NO:20) of *Streptomyces pristinaespiralis* in the presence of formamide at 42°C with washes at 50° and 60° C in 2X SCC and 0.1% SDS, wherein said gene target encodes a polypeptide that is a 3-hydroxypicolinic acid:adenosine 5'-monophosphate ligase;

(b) selecting cells containing the mutated gene, wherein the cells are blocked in the production of pristinamycin IA and IB;

(c) culturing said cells; and

(d) recovering said pristinamycin IIA, pristinamycin IIB, or pristinamycin IIA and IIB.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said gene target is the *snaA* gene of *Streptomyces pristinaespiralis* (SEQ ID NO:20).

25. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the mutation is introduced *in vitro* or *in situ*.

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26. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the mutation comprises the substitution or deletion of one or more nucleotides in the gene target.
27. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the mutation comprises the addition of one or more nucleotides into the gene target.
28. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the method comprises recovering pristinamycin IIB.
29. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the method comprises recovering pristinamycin IIA.
30. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the method comprises recovering both pristinamycin IIA and pristinamycin IIB.

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